

REMARKS

The instant Amendment B is responsive to the second Office Action dated April 18, 2005, which was made final. Applicants submit this Amendment B in conjunction with a Request for Continued Examination and respectfully submit that claims 2, 3, 6-8, 11-13, 15, 16, 21, and 22 as set forth herein patentably distinguish over the cited references, and accordingly ask for allowance of claims 2, 3, 6-8, 11-13, 15, 16, 21, and 22 as set forth herein.

The current status of the claims

Claims 2, 3, 6-8, 11-13, 15, 16, 21, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Microsoft Word 2000, (c) 1983-1999 by Microsoft Corp. (hereinafter "MS Word") in view of William B. Hayes, *Using PowerBuilder 6* (QUE Corp. 1997) (hereinafter "PowerBuilder").

Applicants ask for reconsideration and allowance of claims 2, 3, 6, and 7

Claim 2 stands rejected as unpatentable over MS Word in view of Powerbuilder.

The Office Action at page 3 states that "MS Word discloses in FIGURE 4 the system memory maintaining previously entered text and displaying the previously entered text." Applicants respectfully disagree. The "Find-and-Replace Comment" dialog shown in FIGURE 4 lists reviewers who have entered comments into the MS Word document. The dialog box user can select a reviewer either by typing the reviewer's name into the free-form text entry portion, or by using the drop-down arrow to access a dropdown list of reviewers. However, the dropdown list only displays reviewers who have entered comments, and those reviewers are listed regardless of whether the reviewer name has previously been entered into the free-form text entry portion of FIGURE 4. As a test, Applicants typed the name "John Doe" (who was not a reviewer of the document) into the freeform text entry portion. When the drop-down list was accessed again, "John Doe" still did not appear on the list, evidencing that the

dropdown list of FIGURE 4 is not listing previously entered items. Indeed, nothing in FIGURE 4 discloses or fairly suggests a memory storing previously entered items.

The proposed combination of MS Word and Powerbuilder also fails because neither reference nor their combination provide motivation for displaying the selection button solely when the memory contains at least one previously entered text item, as called for in claim 2.

Powerbuilder provides smart visibility features in order to provide dialog box objects with the ability to supply information in a more intuitive manner. The Office Action at page 4 cites the feature to display the dropdown box selection button only upon focus, and the feature to display the scroll bar only when the number of items is too large to be accessed without scrolling. The Office Action concludes that "it would have been obvious, to one of ordinary skill, at the time the invention was made to combine the dialog box visibility controls of the Powerbuilder 6 GUI builder to create MS Window dialog boxes with smart visibility features in order to provide dialog box objects with the ability to supply information in a more intuitive manner." Office Action at page 4.

This alleged motivation begs the question: "What sort of smart visibility features supply information in a more intuitive manner?" Unless one recognizes that a particular GUI dialog is non-intuitive, it cannot be obvious to employ a smart visibility feature to make that GUI dialog more intuitive. Neither MS Word nor Powerbuilder recognize the non-intuitiveness of displaying a drop-down selection button for recalling previously entered text before any text has been entered. Thus, neither MS Word nor Powerbuilder provide motivation for the skilled artisan to display the selection button solely when the memory contains at least one previously entered text item.

Claim 3 calls for a parser for parsing the text items as parsed text items prior to storage in the memory, and means for selectively storing the parsed text items in said memory based on the parsed text item containing at least one character. The Office Action at page 5 rejects this claim based on the recital at Powerbuilder page 2 of "Sorted: If Sorted is checked, the items will be sorted." Applicants respectfully submit that a sorter does not disclose or fairly suggest a parser. A sorter sorts items, for example by alphabetical order, numeric order, or so forth. A parser parses text, for

example by removing extraneous white space. Moreover, nothing in the cited section of Powerbuilder remotely suggests the selective storing means called out in claim 3.

Claim 7 calls for means for initializing the memory as empty each time the associated window is started. The Office Action at page 5 rejects this claim based on MS Word FIGURE 2. MS Word FIGURE 2 does not show a dropdown list or other memory-suggestive item. Applicants therefore assume that MS Word FIGURE 4 was intended. As noted previously, the memory associated with the dropdown list of MS Word FIGURE 4 stores a list of reviewer's names, not a list of text entries previously entered into the free-form text entry portion. Moreover, Applicants do not find that this memory is initialized as empty each time the associated window is started. Rather, each time Applicants start the associated window, the same list of reviewers is accessed.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2, 3, 6, and 7 patentably distinguish over the cited references. Accordingly, Applicants ask for reconsideration and allowance of claims 2, 3, 6, and 7.

Claims 8, 11-13, 15 and 16 patentably distinguish over the cited references

Claim 8 has been amended to call for initializing the memory as empty, and to call for repeating the displaying (ii), counting (iii), and displaying (iv) at least once. (The amendments adding roman numerals (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (v), (vi), and (vii) provide more ready identification of process operations, and are not intended to imply any ordering of the process operations).

As noted respective to claim 7, Applicants do not find an initializing of the memory as empty in either MS Word or Powerbuilder.

Moreover, these amendments clarify that since the memory is initialized as empty, the counting of entries stored previously in the memory will initially return a value of zero, so that the drop-down list selection button will not be displayed on the screen the first time after the initializing but will be displayed once the memory has non-zero contents. Neither MS Word, Powerbuilder, nor their combination disclose or fairly suggest such a method.

Claims 12 and 13 have been amended to depend from claims 8 and 11,

respectively.

Claim 16 calls for parsing the received text entry, the parsed text entry being stored in the memory by the updating. This claim apparently stands rejected on the same basis as claim 3, i.e. based on the recital at Powerbuilder page 2 of "Sorted: If Sorted is checked, the items will be sorted." Applicants again respectfully submit that a sorter does not fairly suggest a parser, and submit that neither MS Word nor Powerbuilder disclose or fairly suggest storing a parsed text entry in a memory.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 8, 11-13, 15 and 16 as set forth herein patentably distinguish over the cited references. Accordingly, Applicants ask for allowance of claims 8, 11-13, 15 and 16 as set forth herein.

Applicants ask for reconsideration and allowance of claims 21 and 22

Claim 21 calls for a free-form text entry portion displayed on an associated display device for receiving a free-form text entry from an associated user; a memory storing free-form text entries previously entered by the associated user into the free-form text entry portion; a drop-down list selection button displayed in conjunction with the free-form text entry portion only when the memory contains at least one previously entered free-form text entry; and a drop-down selection list portion displayed in conjunction with the free-form text entry portion responsive to activation by the associated user of the drop-down list selection button, the drop-down selection list portion listing the previously entered free-form text entries stored in the memory for selection by the associated user.

MS Word FIGURE 4 does not disclose or fairly suggest a memory storing free-form text entries previously entered by the associated user into a free-form text entry portion. The only memory that can be inferred from FIGURE 4 is a memory storing a list of reviewer's names. The reviewer's names are generated by MS Word as reviewers modify the document using the TRACKED CHANGES option of MS Word, or when reviewers enter comments, or so forth. The reviewer's names do not correspond to free-form text entries previously entered by the associated user into a free-form text entry portion.

None of MS Word, Powerbuilder, or their combination, disclose or fairly suggest a drop-down list selection button displayed in conjunction with the free-form text entry portion only when the memory contains at least one previously entered free-form text entry. Powerbuilder does disclose "smart visibility features". However, neither MS Word nor Powerbuilder recognize the non-intuitiveness of displaying of a drop-down list selection button when the memory contains no previously entered free-form text entry. Without this recognition, there is no motivation to employ selective display of the drop-down list selection button as called for in claim 21.

Still further, none of MS Word, Powerbuilder, or their combination, disclose or fairly suggest the drop-down selection list portion listing the previously entered free-form text entries stored in the memory for selection by the associated user also called for in claim 21. The dropdown list of MS Word FIGURE 4 lists reviewers, not previously entered free-form text entries. Powerbuilder discloses a dropdown list, but does not disclose or fairly suggest a dropdown list portion listing previously entered free-form text entries stored in a memory for selection by the associated user.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 21 and 22 patentably distinguish over the cited references. Accordingly, Applicants ask for reconsideration and allowance of claims 21 and 22.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2, 3, 6-8, 11-13, 15, 16, 21, and 22 as set forth herein are in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully submitted,

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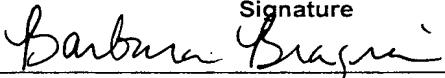
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